

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A system of dental appliances comprising:  
2                   a plurality of dental appliances wherein at least some of the plurality include a  
3 non-numeric indicia designating an order in which each of the at least some of the plurality  
4 are to be worn by a patient to provide dental treatment.

1                   2.       A system as in claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of dental  
2 appliances comprise a polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and resiliently  
3 reposition teeth from one arrangement to a successive arrangement.

1                   3.       A system as in claim 2, wherein each of the polymeric shells has at  
2 least one terminal tooth cavity and the indicia comprises a terminal tooth cavity of differing  
3 length in each of the polymeric shells .

1                   4.       A system as in claim 2, wherein each of the polymeric shell has a  
2 height and the indicia comprises a different height in each of the polymeric shells.

1                   5.       A system as in claim 2, wherein the indicia comprises one or more  
2 cutouts so that each polymeric shell has a different cutout pattern.

1                   6.       A system as in claim 5, wherein the cutout comprises a notch in an  
2 edge of the appliance.

1                   7.       A system as in claim 1, wherein the indicia comprises a color wherein  
2 each appliance has the same hue a different intensity.

1                   8.       A system as in claim 1, wherein the indicia comprises a color and the  
2 color comprises a dissolvable dye.

1                   9.       A system as in claim 1, wherein the indicia comprises a color and  
2 further comprising a wrapper removably attachable to each of the appliances, wherein each  
3 wrapper has the color.

1                   10.      A system as in claim 1, wherein the indicia comprises a computer  
2 readable element.

1                    11.     A system as in claim 10, wherein the computer readable element  
2 comprises a barcode.

1                    12.     A system as in claim 10, wherein the computer readable element is  
2 readable by wireless means.

1                    13.     A system as in claim 12, wherein the wireless means utilizes  
2 radiofrequency.

1                    14.     A system of packaged dental appliances comprising:  
2                    a plurality of packages each containing a dental appliance, wherein the  
3 plurality of packages are joined in a continuous chain designating an order in which each of  
4 the dental appliances are to be worn by a patient to provide dental treatment.

1                    15.     A system as in claim 14, wherein the packages are each joined by a  
2 perforation wherein the packages can be separated by breaking the perforation.

1                    16.     A system as in claim 14, wherein the packages are joined by a heat  
2 seal.

1                    17.     A system as in claim 14, further comprising a marking on a package at  
2 an end of the chain indicating the dental appliance to be worn first.

1                    18.     A system as in claim 14, wherein each of the plurality of dental  
2 appliances comprise a polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and resiliently  
3 reposition teeth from one arrangement to a successive arrangement.

1                    19.     A system of dental appliances comprising:  
2                    a plurality of dental appliances to be worn by a patient to provide dental  
3 treatment; and  
4                    a framework, wherein each of the plurality of dental appliances are removably  
5 attached to a portion of the framework.

1                    20.     A system as in claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of dental  
2 appliances comprise a polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and resiliently  
3 reposition teeth from one arrangement to a successive arrangement.

1                   21.     A system as in claim 19, further comprising at least one marking on the  
2     framework indicating the order in which the appliances are to be worn by a patient.

1                   22.     A method of dispensing dental appliances to a patient comprising:  
2                   providing a plurality of packages wherein each of the packages includes a  
3     polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and resiliently reposition teeth from one  
4     arrangement to a successive arrangement, the plurality of package including a first package  
5     containing a first shell to be worn by the patient to reposition the teeth from the one  
6     arrangement to the successive arrangement and a second package containing a second shell to  
7     be worn by the patient to reposition the teeth from the successive arrangement to another  
8     successive arrangement;  
9                   delivering the first package to the patient at a designated time through a  
10    remote delivery system; and  
11                  delivering the second package to the patient at a later designated time through  
12    the remote delivery system.

1                   23.     A method as in claim 22, wherein the remote delivery system  
2     comprises a mail delivery system.

1                   24.     A method of dispensing dental appliances to a patient comprising:  
2                   providing a dispenser including a plurality of dental appliances, wherein each  
3     of the appliances comprises a polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and  
4     resiliently reposition teeth from one arrangement to a successive arrangement, the plurality of  
5     appliances including a first shell to be worn by the patient to reposition the teeth from the one  
6     arrangement to the successive arrangement and a second shell to be worn by the patient to  
7     reposition the teeth from the successive arrangement to another successive arrangement; and  
8                   removing the first shell from the dispenser wherein removal of the first shell  
9     dispenses the second shell.

1                   25.     A method of dispensing dental appliances to a patient comprising:  
2                   providing a dispenser including a plurality of dental appliances, wherein each  
3     of the appliances comprises a polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and  
4     resiliently reposition teeth from one arrangement to a successive arrangement, the plurality of  
5     appliances including a first shell to be worn by the patient to reposition the teeth from the one

6 arrangement to the successive arrangement and a second shell to be worn by the patient to  
7 reposition the teeth from the successive arrangement to another successive arrangement; and  
8 removing the first shell from the dispenser; and  
9 actuating an actuator that subsequently dispenses the second shell.

1 26. A system as in claim 25 wherein the actuator comprises a lever, knob,  
2 or button.

1 27. A package of dental appliances comprising:  
2 a package including a plurality of dental appliances positioned in an  
3 arrangement within the package which indicates an order of usage.

1 28. A package as in claim 27, wherein each of the appliances comprises a  
2 polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and resiliently reposition teeth from one  
3 arrangement to a successive arrangement, the plurality of appliances including a first shell to  
4 be worn by the patient to reposition the teeth from the one arrangement to the successive  
5 arrangement and a second shell to be worn by the patient to reposition the teeth from the  
6 successive arrangement to another successive arrangement.

1 29. A package as in claim 27, wherein the arrangement comprises stacking  
2 of the appliances.

1 30. A system of packages for dental appliances:  
2 a plurality of packages configured for housing at least one dental appliance,  
3 wherein each package includes a label having a non-numeric indicia indicating the order of  
4 usage of the corresponding dental appliance.

1 31. A system as in claim 30, wherein the label includes a series of numbers  
2 and the non-numeric indicia comprises a marking on one of the numbers.

1 32. A system as in claim 30, wherein the label includes a series of numbers  
2 and the non-numeric indicia comprises a removal of one of the numbers.

1 33. A system as in claim 32, wherein the removal of one of the numbers  
2 comprises a holepunch.

1                    34.    A system as in claim 30, wherein the a non-numeric indicia comprises  
2    at least one shape.

1                    35.    A system as in claim 34, wherein the at least one shape comprises at  
2    least one stripe.

1                    36.    A system as in claim 35, wherein the at least one stripe comprises a  
2    series of stripes forming a barcode.

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